

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 21, 2009 has been carefully considered. Claim 4 has been amended. Claim 4 is in this application.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as not providing support for "washing long grain rice with purified water". Applicants submit that support for this limitation is found throughout the specification and in particular on page 3, lines 19-21. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously cited U.S. Patent No. 3,892,058 to Komatsu et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,139,898 to Meyer et al.

The Examiner indicated that it is unclear about what is unexpected about applicant's results from the Declaration of Changyong Lee submitted with the previous amendment. The Examiner indicated that the sterilization of the present invention which occurs 4-10 times repeatedly for 4-8 seconds occurs without interruption and is functionally equivalent to a one time sterilization process. Applicants submit that as defined by the present claims the sterilization in the present invention occurs by sterilization with high pressure steam in which the steam is applied for a predetermined amount of time, and then again applied for a predetermined amount of time. The steam is not applied without interruption as it is applied for specific increments of time. As noted in the Declaration of Changyong Lee, the sterilization condition of the present invention is carried out intermittently in the chamber. Further, as noted in the Declaration of Changyong Lee it is unexpected that including repeated sterilization generates cooked rice with an improved degree of stickiness. The Examiner indicated that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform either one or many sterilization steps since they would expect both processes to yield equally effective results. However, as shown in the Declaration of Changyong Lee the process of providing many sterilization steps produces improved results over a single sterilization step and both processes do not yield equally effective results and accordingly, the method of providing many sterilization steps is not obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

The invention defined by the present claim teaches the steps of washing the long grain

rice with only purified water, coating long grain rice washed with the purified water, and of sterilization which is conducted by repeating 4 to 10 times the sterilization by applying high pressure steam at a temperature of 130°C~150°C and for 4 to 8 seconds each time. In contrast, Komatsu et al. teach sterilization is conducted at 130°C~160° C for 0.5 minutes to 15 minutes for a single time in continuous sterilization (col. 15, lines 34-30). Meyer et al. teach that sterilization is conducted at 80°C~100° C for 1 minute to 80 minutes (col. 3, lines 1-17). Meyer et al. disclose the step of treating the rice with acidified water (pH 4.0-4.5), and then coating the rice with an oil. Meyer et al. do not teach or suggest washing the long grain with only purified water. As shown in the Declaration of Changyong Lee, if the rice is treated with acidified water before oil coating as Meyer et al. discloses, the stickiness of the rice is increased because the pasting (degradation) of the rice is increased in acidic pH. Accordingly, the invention defined by the present claims is not obvious in view of Komatsu et al. in combination with Meyer et al. and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should she believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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